

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

25 SEPTEMBER 1979

DOCUMENT 1-332/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by

Mr CURRY and Mr HOWELL

on behalf of the European Democratic Group

with request for an early vote

pursuant to Rule 47(5) of the Rules of Procedure

to wind up the debate on

Oral Question Doc. 1-306/79/rev.

on butter exports to Russia

The European Parliament,

- recognizing that the high cost of refunds on exports of butter is the result of a structural surplus of milk production,
 - recognizing that this situation has existed periodically since the common organization of agricultural markets was agreed in 1968,
 - having regard to the continual failure of the Council and the Commission to achieve balance in the dairy sector,
 - having regard to the assurances given by Commissioner Cheysson on 14 December 1976 and by the President of the Commission, Mr Jenkins, on 9 March 1977 on consulting the European Parliament; and believing that the financial significance of export sales of agricultural produce is such that the European Parliament should be given the opportunity to represent the rights of the European taxpayer,
 - believing that the export of butter at a price well below the retail price of butter in the EEC has such an adverse impact on public opinion in certain parts of the EEC as to endanger Community solidarity,
 - having regard to COM(78) 430 on the situation in the milk sector,
1. Calls for a thorough re-examination of the common market organization of the dairy sector, including the Community's export policies, and a re-examination of the implications of paragraph 48 of COM(78) 430;
 2. Condemns, in particular, the export of fresh butter to the USSR at prices far below those paid by the Community's consumers, at taxpayers' expense, without even being certain of the identity of the ultimate consumer of the butter;
 3. Believes that the Commission should urgently consider a change in the export subsidy system so that it is no longer tied to an artificially low world price which may be open to manipulation by large-scale purchasers;
 4. Believes that a licensing system for all exports of agricultural products to which an export refund applies would be an appropriate development of the CAP and would permit more effective parliamentary surveillance, and accordingly calls on the Commission to come forward with appropriate proposals as soon as possible;
 5. Instructs its Committee on Agriculture to examine and report on the situation in the dairy sector and to propose initiatives to resolve the surplus production in that sector;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.